valley by inter alia providing security pickets. It has also been decided to set up village defence committees in such Sikh villages, where sufficient volunteers are available.

(d) and (e) To assist the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in tackling the problem of terrorism, Central Security Forces have already been provided. The actual quantum of Central Security Forces at a particular time depends on the availability of forces and the prevailing overall security environment. Keeping in view these constraints, Central Security Forces have been made available to Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir.

TALK BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NSCN

2783. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the demands of the NSCN (IM) and NSCN(K) raised in the talks between the Government representatives and the NSCN; and

(b) if so, the steps taken up to meet their demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) It would not be in public interest to divulge the details of talks with the NSCN(IM). There have been no formal talks so far between Government representatives and the NSCN(K).

FUNCTIONING OF JAILS

2784. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the functioning of different jails in the country remains as archaic as ever despite various studies and reports for Commissions on jails since independence;

(b) the number of priosn deaths during the last five years, indicating those of the under-trials and the number of suicides; and

(c) the number of under-trials for over ten years in jails and those without trial for over two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) :

(a) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. As such, priosn management is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been stressing upon the State Governments the need to improve the conditions in jails and make them truly corrective and reformative institutions. The Central Government has also been providing financial assistance to the State Governments, through the awards of the Finance Commission as well as under the Central Scheme for Modernisation of Prison Administration, to supplement their efforts in this direction. Further the Central Government has prepared a draft Model Prison (Management) Bill and circulated the same to all the State Governments. This Bill is in tune with modern penological thinking.

(b) According to the information contained in the Annual Reports of the National Human Rights Commission, the number of deaths that occurred in judicial custody during the years 1994-95 to 1998-99 was 2992.

(c) No such information is maintained at the Central level.

Naxal Menace

2785. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the context of recent Naxalites' attacks and blasts in Madhya Pradesh, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has called upon the Central Government to take the growing Naxal menace as national problem not a State-problem or an inter-State menace;

(b) whether as many as 23 security personnel including an IPS officer were killed in a blast triggered by the Naxals near Narayanpur in Bastar district on Feb. 20, 2000 close on heals of the killing of the State Transport Minister in Balaghat in December last; and

(c) what is the Central Government's response and reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) :

(a) Keeping in view the overall dimensions which the left wing extremism has assumed, the Union Home Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the affected States on 4-4-2000 to review the overall situation and to discuss further measures required to be taken in this regard. The Chief Ministers of the affected States expressed their serious concern in the matter and urged for Central assistance.